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Glyndwr emerges from the obscurity of the petty Welsh gentry, marked only by the possession of some of the old Cymric princely blood, and by a personal vigor and charm which afterwards drew many strange allies to him. He resisted the power of the Marcher barons, awakened the half-sleeping national spirit of the Welsh peasantry, utilized their always wakeful love of plunder, and for five years kept Wales swept reasonably clear of Englishmen, except in as far as they were ensconced in their castles or engaged in rapid and futile marches across the country. Then the perseverance of Henry IV. and the young Prince of Wales backed by the superior numbers, wealth, organization, and equipment of England made itself gradually felt, till Glyndwr was at last driven into exile and the Welsh again reduced to obedience. These events are told in this book with a clearness, reasonableness and fullness greater than anywhere else. It seems impossible that anything about his hero could have escaped Mr. Bradley's minute search, and impracticable for the known facts to have been grouped so as to tell the story better. In fact, Mr. Bradley is inclined to accept mere later traditions even too readily, on the ground that it might have been true, and in the paucity of definite contemporary statements. More than once, what has been admitted in the first place as a suggestion or a mere possibility comes in after discussion to be treated as an established fact.

The narrative is flanked by an introductory and a concluding chapter intended to trace the development of Wales up to the beginning of Owen's rising, and to follow its main fortunes since the close of that episode. In still another way Mr. Bradley has done much to make the surroundings of Glyndwr seem real. There is a fine picturesqueness in all his descriptions of the country in which the events took place. Scarcely a place is mentioned without some visual touch of description which shows that the author has seen it in person, and in many cases an excellent photographic reproduction of its modern appearance is given. Wales itself therefore is real enough. Yet for all this completeness of statement and conscientious and skilful use of the sources, Glyndwr remains a very shadowy personality. He was a national hero because he embodied and led a national rising, and because his name has been retained by the long memory of the Welsh. All that we can know of him is well told in this book, but even here there is nothing very tangible to set over against the wizard of Shakespeare's *Henry IV.*

E. P. CHEYNEY.

Registres du Conseil de Genève. Tome I. 1409-1461. (Vols. 1-4.)
Publié par ÉMILE RIVOIRE. (Geneva: Kündig. 1900. Pp. ix,
558.)

PUBLISHED under the auspices of the scholarly Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie de Genève, this is an accurate and complete reprint of the first four volumes extant of the transactions of the *consilium ordinarium*, and the two larger councils of Geneva. The following facts drawn from

the *Registres* will indicate the nature of the records and the local institutions.

The *consilium generale*, composed of *cives, burgenses et incolæ* (or *habitatores*) [possibly those *habitatores* who had received the *sufferta*?] was the primary assembly of the commune. It assembled in the cloister of St. Peter's monthly (1459), or quarterly (1460), and exercised control over the two smaller councils, and the communal officers. It levied taxes, elected syndics and some other local officers, regulated price of wine, and ratified or rejected treaties. The four syndics, the constitutional executive officers of the commune, were elected by the *consilium generale*, the first Sunday in February. They received the oaths of the officers of the commune, and of the administrative representatives of the Prince-Bishop and Duke of Savoy. By 1409, when these records begin, the syndics had established the custom of associating with themselves, the four syndics of the preceding year and a number of councillors, usually eight, to form the *consilium ordinarium*. This council (the *petit conseil* of twenty-five of the sixteenth century) met every Tuesday, and usually three to five times weekly. It made a monthly tour of inspection of the city; elected the treasurer; conducted negotiations with bishop and duke; passed ordinances regarding grading, paving, cleaning, lighting streets, swine, fires, sanitation, prices of food and drink and hours of sales, courtesans, mendicants, games, schools, and carrying of arms. Between 1457 and 1460, there are the following suggestive indications of a play of democratic and aristocratic tendencies. In 1457, the council of fifty is created by the *consilium generale*, to avoid discussion in the latter of delicate diplomatic matters, and to check or sanction the action of the *consilium ordinarium*. The fifty are at first elected by the *consilium generale*, but in 1459 by the *consilium ordinarium*. A caucus of the two smaller councils, *unacum doctoribus et notabilioribus*, failed to dictate the nomination of "more useful" syndics in 1458; but in 1460 the two smaller councils nominated the successful candidates. In 1459, the *consilium generale* ordered that at its monthly meeting six or seven chapters of the *franchises* should be read, and three explained in the mother tongue, and an opportunity given any one to complain of any injury done in violation of this city charter. In 1460, the *consilium generale* revised a tax levied, under its orders, by the smaller councils, and forbade the fifty to levy taxes without the knowledge of the primary assembly.

The editors, MM. Rivoire, Dufour-Vernes, and Covelle, have transcribed the faded, abbreviated, and ungrammatical Latin with patience and skill. The only modifications of the difficult originals are of real service to the modern reader, viz.:—systemizing of capitalization and punctuation, and completion of the abbreviations. The valuable index of seventy-one pages gives modern French equivalents of places and low Latin words, and distinguishes by italics things from persons. It is usually accurate, though not complete. A few omissions of interesting items have been noted:—*L. Quinquaginta Consilium*, 167 (its creation!); *receptor*, 27, 132; *Carrerix*, 107, 140, 148, 308; *cridæ*, 120,

123, 133, 268, 289, 351. The index to future volumes would be even more useful, first if more complete, at least under headings indicating constitutional processes, *e. g.*—*receptor*, 27, 132 (whose election is incorrectly assigned by Kampschulte to *consilium generale*), *electiones sindicorum* (ten out of sixteen omitted); second, if items were grouped logically rather than etymologically, *e. g.*—all proclamations should be found together under *cridæ* (cries) and not, as now, eight of them under *crida ville* (crieur) simply because *crida* occurs in the singular; and the election of syndics, pp. 69, 132, 135, 138, should not be omitted but entered under *electiones sindicorum*, though the form may be verbal, *electi*, or *fiat sindicus*.

Such a painstaking and generous publication is a genuine contribution to scholarship. The first official records of the growth of Genevean institutions possess far more than local interest, and the continuation of their publication, already undertaken by the society, will be eagerly awaited.

HERBERT D. FOSTER.

The Epistles of Erasmus from his Earliest Letters to his Fifty-first Year, arranged in order of time. English translation by FRANCIS MORGAN NICHOLS. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1901. Pp. xciii, 39, 496.)

AN event of no little interest to English students of the Renaissance is the appearance, for the first time, of a translation of the letters of Erasmus. Mr. Francis Morgan Nichols, the translator, has moreover done much more than merely to translate. He has undertaken to arrange the correspondence down to the year 1517 in a reasonable chronological order and to state at considerable length the reasons for his arrangement. The sequence of the letters is shown in a chronological register, and the explanations are given in a running commentary which is to be found partly at the beginning of the several chapters and partly in connection with each letter as it occurs. The present volume covers the period to 1509; a second volume extending to 1517 is to be expected.

Mr. Nichols's qualifications for his work are many and sound. He knows the Erasmian Latin with a knowledge other than that of the mere classicist. He seldom fails to get the right word or phrase to express the not always perfectly obvious meaning of the great stylist. His own style is easy and occasionally goes far to suggest the actual mood of one of the moodiest of men. So far as their general interest is concerned, the letters here given are perhaps the least attractive in Erasmus's whole correspondence. They begin with two groups probably written during and immediately after his residence in the monastery at Steyn; letters so obviously conventional in subject and tone that Mr. Nichols is probably right in his conjecture that they are little more than rhetorical exercises. They introduce us to the narrow circle of Erasmus's first literary sympathizers, with whom he kept in touch only so long as he needed them. His departure from the monastery, and the failure of his first attempts to